



Penn State Behrend Sustainability Council Charter

Purpose

The Behrend Sustainability Council was established to support and promote sustainability efforts, consistent with campus goals and strategic plan, at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, through discussions and advisement of the Director of Sustainability. Understanding that the continuance of our community, of our society, and of our species requires a change in mindset, it is our mission to incorporate and model the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals in all aspects of campus life.

Council Composition

The Council will consist of a diverse group of faculty, staff and administration. Student representatives are encouraged to serve on the Council, as well as within subcommittees, to bring the student perspective to the group.

The Council will be constituted as follows:

- Director of Sustainability will serve as Council chair
- At least one faculty representative from each school
- At least one representative from each campus department, including and especially:
 - Business and Operations
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Civic and Community Engagement
 - Housing and Food Service
 - Information Technology Services
- Additional at-large members, including student representatives, at the discretion of the Council chair

Membership will be by self-nomination and/or Council solicitation and approval. Memberships will be at a term length of at least one academic calendar year, with consecutive terms at the discretion of the Council membership and as per minimum attendance requirements.

Member Responsibilities

1. Attendance at Sustainability Committee meetings
 - a. To best vitalize the collaborative work being done, committee members are strongly encouraged to participate in monthly meetings.
 - b. In the case a member may not be able to physically attend meetings, alternative methods of participation may be configured.
2. Participate as representative member of committee through sustainability efforts on campus and in community.



Subcommittees

The efforts of the Sustainability Council will be supported by working groups, which will be established from the roster of current Council members. Subcommittees are encouraged to solicit and include additional members from the campus community to increase participation and diverse perspectives. Each subcommittee will report directly to the Council at scheduled monthly meetings.

General Sustainability Council Operations

Meetings

Sustainability Council meets monthly in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April for an academic calendar year. Council may agree to additional meetings to address issues and responsibilities as needed.

Attendance

Council members are expected to attend all meetings. A minimum attendance of three (3) Council meetings is required to maintain membership for the next academic calendar year.

Decision Making

1. A quorum of 60% must be present to vote.
2. A majority yes is required for a vote to pass.
3. In the case of a tie vote, the issue will be re-introduced at the next meeting.
4. Sustainability Council reserves the right to determine appropriate method of voting.

Amendments and Changes to the Charter

1. Any member of the Sustainability Council may propose an amendment to the charter at any time.
2. An amendment may only be ratified by an affirmative quorum vote of the Sustainability Council.
3. Clerical errors or omissions are not considered amendments and may be corrected at the discretion of the Council if the correction doesn't change the meaning or intent of the original.

Term of Charter

This charter will remain the controlling document of the Behrend Sustainability Council until otherwise amended or replaced upon majority vote by the members of the Council.